



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

AUG 14 1986

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: USS Lead Refinery
East Chicago, Indiana

FROM: David A. Ullrich *Dave*
Deputy Regional Counsel

TO: William Miner, Chief
Hazardous Waste
Enforcement Branch

and Don Schregardus, Chief
Water Quality Compliance
Section
and

Larry Kertcher, Chief
Air Compliance Branch

In late 1984, the Region referred a case under the Clean Water Act against USS Lead Refinery in East Chicago, Indiana. Since that time, we have been negotiating and litigating with the company. To this date, we have had very little success in obtaining an agreement.

In addition to the water problems, I understand that there have been concerns about air lead levels in the area. This was the subject of a special investigation by the Air Management Division.

I recall from a number of the RCRA and CERCLA cases we have had that there appears to be a high incidence of problems associated with the refining and handling of lead. In fact, I understand that we have a RCRA action against USS Lead.

Recent information suggests that the company is in very precarious financial condition. I think they are out of business completely or are at a very low level of operation. This will make resolution of the environmental problems under any of our laws much more difficult. }

This appears to be exactly the type of situation that calls for multi-media attention and coordination. I recommend that the staff attorneys and engineers from the three divisions and ORC get together to determine what information can be exchanged and what can be done to insure that the type of environmental remedy

we are seeking under each law is compatible with the other. Please let me know what you think of this proposal and what further steps should be taken.

cc: Wise, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
Field, Acting Branch Chief SWERB - ORC
M. Smith, Branch Chief AWTGL - ORC